15 August 2018

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Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East
Fifty-third session
Baku, 19–23 November 2018
Item 8 of the provisional agenda**
Organization of the fifty-fourth session of the Subcommission

Organization of the fifty-fourth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East

Note by the Secretariat

1. Representatives whose Governments wish to act as host for the fifty-fourth or a subsequent session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East are invited to inform the Subcommission accordingly. That information will be brought to the attention of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixty-second session, in 2019.

2. The draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Subcommission is annexed to the present note.

3. Item 4 of the draft provisional agenda will be devoted to the examination of the status of implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its fifty-first session. In order to facilitate reporting, a questionnaire concerning action taken by Governments to implement those recommendations will be transmitted together with the invitation to attend the fifty-fourth session.

4. At the fortieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the view was expressed that the recommendations adopted by the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission would remain meaningless if Governments did not take action, including, where necessary, the enactment of national legislation, to implement those recommendations. States represented at the session of the Subcommission are urged to implement such recommendations conscientiously and promptly so that an effective evaluation of their progress can be made.

5. It would be desirable for the fifty-third session of the Subcommission to identify the topics that would be most appropriate for consideration by working groups at its fifty-fourth session. The Subcommission may also wish to revisit topics that have already been discussed at previous sessions and that may benefit from further in-depth discussion or consideration from a particular perspective. Alternatively, the

* Available only in Arabic, English, and Russian, which are the working languages of the subsidiary body.

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Meeting may wish to request the Secretariat to consult the participating States members informally with a view to identifying topics for consideration by the working groups.

6. In its resolution 56/10, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs requested the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission to contribute to the monitoring of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem at the regional level.

7. In the same resolution, the Commission encouraged Member States to consider the expertise and composition of their delegations to the meetings of its subsidiary bodies, with a view to covering the various aspects of the world drug problem (demand, supply and international cooperation) in order to hold substantive discussions on the issue.

8. The General Assembly held a special session on the world drug problem from 19 to 21 April 2016 and adopted an outcome document entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem" (General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex). The outcome document contains a broad range of operational recommendations, covering seven thematic areas. Member States resolved to take the steps necessary to implement the operational recommendations, in close partnership with the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations and civil society, and to share with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters, timely information on progress made in the implementation of those recommendations. At the fifty-fourth session, participants will have the opportunity to discuss national and regional issues pertaining to the world drug problem, drawing on the outcome of the special session.

9. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided, at its sixtieth session, in March 2017, to convene a ministerial segment during its sixty-second session, to be held in Vienna in 2019, to take stock of the implementation of the commitments made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem, in particular in the light of the 2019 target date of the Political Declaration. At the fifty-fourth session, participants will have the opportunity to discuss the follow-up to the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

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Annex

Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its fifty-second session.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups [*to be determined*].
6. Follow-up to the ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
7. Organization of the fifty-fifth session of the Subcommission.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report of the Subcommission on its fifty-fourth session.